



2005 Farm Bill Programs Activity in the Lower Arkansas River Watershed

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides matching funds to state, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

FY 2005 FRPP Statewide Activities				
County	Type	# of Contracts	Acres	Federal Share
Boulder	Farm	1	63.6	\$95,656
Custer	Ranch	1	500	\$312,500
Gunnison	Ranch	1	103.6	\$203,956
Montezuma	Ranch	2	936	\$1,363,000
Pueblo	Ranch	1	440	\$231,000
Saguache	Ranch	8	4,606	\$1,734,520
Teller	Ranch	1	375	\$465,000
Total		15	7,024	\$4,405,632

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. It provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

FY 2005 EQIP Contract Funding in the Lower Arkansas River Watershed			
Natural Resource Concerns	Applications Received	Applications Contracted	\$ Amount Approved
Water Quality/Quantity	107	59	\$1,589,609
AITF	5	3	\$119,329
Soil Erosion	35	20	\$389,979
Grassland	158	62	\$1,958,048
Animal Waste	12	8	\$451,599
Wildlife	42	4	\$29,601
CNMP	8	8	\$4,000
Ground & Surface Water	81	23	\$1,129,687
Total	448	187	\$5,671,852

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), a voluntary program, offers landowners technical and financial support to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

FY 2005 Statewide WRP Activities	
Number of Applications Received	22
Number of Applications Contracted	10
Dollar Amount Approved	\$3,090,800
Acres Under Contract	2,315
Statewide, another ten applications totaling \$4,483,489 are on the waiting list to fund 3,141 acres of easements.	

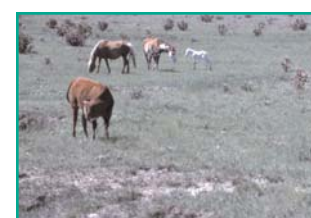
The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

FY 2005 WHIP Activities	
Number of Applications Received	44
Number of Applications Contracted	13
Dollar Amount Approved	\$134,059
Acres Under Contract	1,544.7

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), a voluntary program, helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. It emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

FY 2005 GRP Activities	
Applications Received	26
Applications Contracted	1
Dollars Approved	\$144,773
Acres Under Contract	2,227

Lower Arkansas River Watershed



Photos by Mary Miller
NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

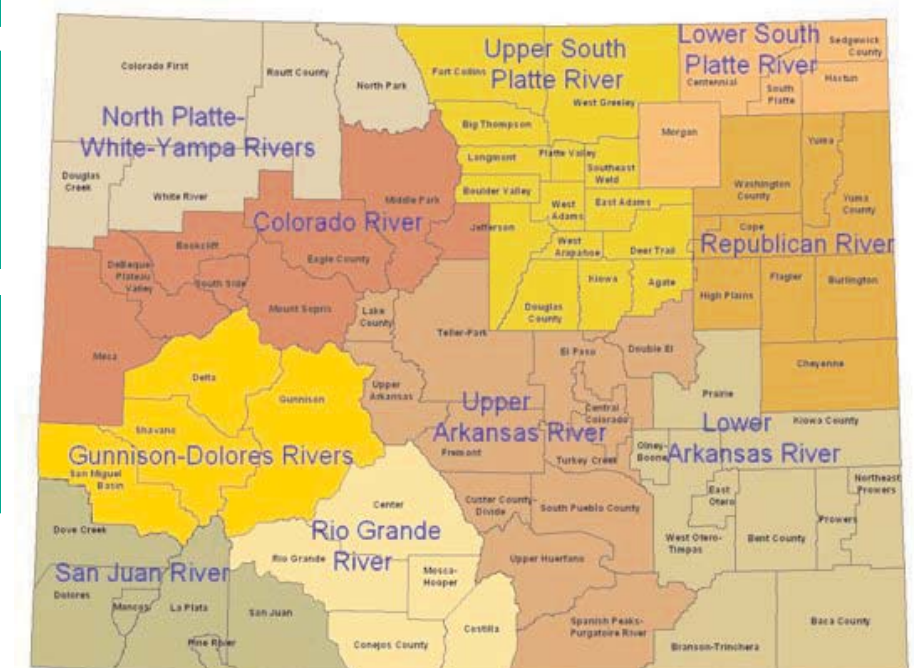


Watershed Profile

The Lower Arkansas River Watershed totals 8,683,610 acres and includes all and/or portions of Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Las Animas, Lincoln, Otero, Pueblo, and Prowers Counties. NRCS natural resource specialists are staffed at the Eads, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, Rocky Ford, and Springfield USDA Field Service Centers, as well as at the Northeast Prowers Conservation District Office. These specialists provide technical assistance, as well as incentive and cost-share program information to watershed residents.

NRCS Colorado looks to each watershed to identify its particular local resource needs and priorities. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) provides leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level. In the Lower Arkansas River Watershed, 10 Conservation Districts organized a locally-led watershed work group which identified its major resource concerns as erosion, noxious weeds, water quality, water quantity, and rangeland management. Ultimately, the work group will set goals, identify programs and other sources to address its natural resource concerns, develop proposals and recommendations, implement solutions, and measure success.

Colorado Watershed Associations and Conservation Districts



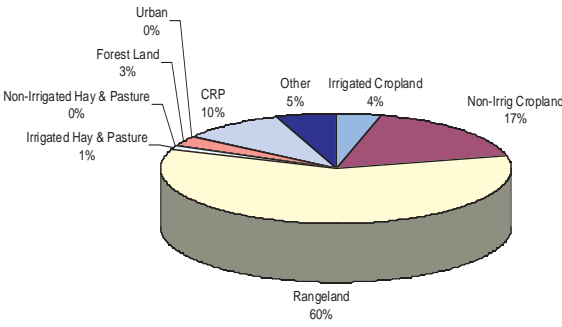
High Priority
Resource Concerns

as identified by a locally-led Watershed Work Group

- ◆ Erosion ◆ Water Quality ◆ Water Quantity ◆ Rangeland Management ◆ Noxious Weeds

Land Use

Lower Arkansas River Watershed
Land Use



Note: Acreages are a compilation of 2004 data from the USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture; USDA-NRCS National Resources Inventory; USDI-USGS National Land Cover Dataset; State of Colorado-DNR Colorado Decision Support Systems.



8,683,610 Acres

Irrigated Cropland	369,579
Non-Irrigated Cropland	1,476,642
Rangeland	5,150,000
Irrigated Hay & Pasture	100,000
Non-Irrigated Hay & Pasture	30,000
Forestland	228,600
Urban	25,500
CRP	830,992
Other	472,297



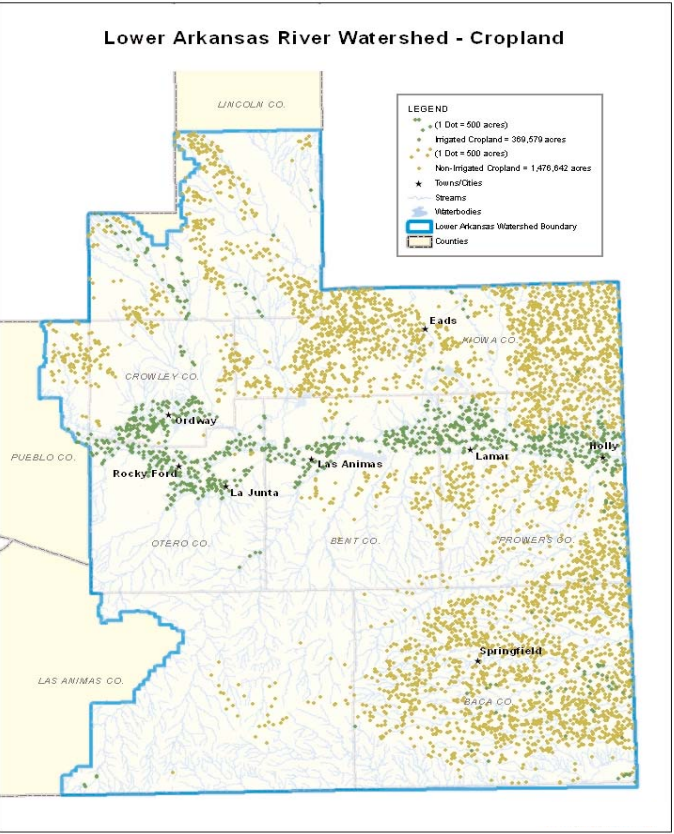
Photo by Mary Miller
NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

The 1,450 mile Arkansas River is the fourth longest river in the United States, traversing east and southeast through Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. At its origin in the Colorado Rockies, it runs as a steep mountain torrent dropping 4,600 feet in 120 miles. At Canon City, Colorado, it leaves the mountains and enters Royal Gorge. For the rest of its length through Colorado and the Lower Arkansas River Watershed, it is a typical Great Plains riverway with wide shallow banks

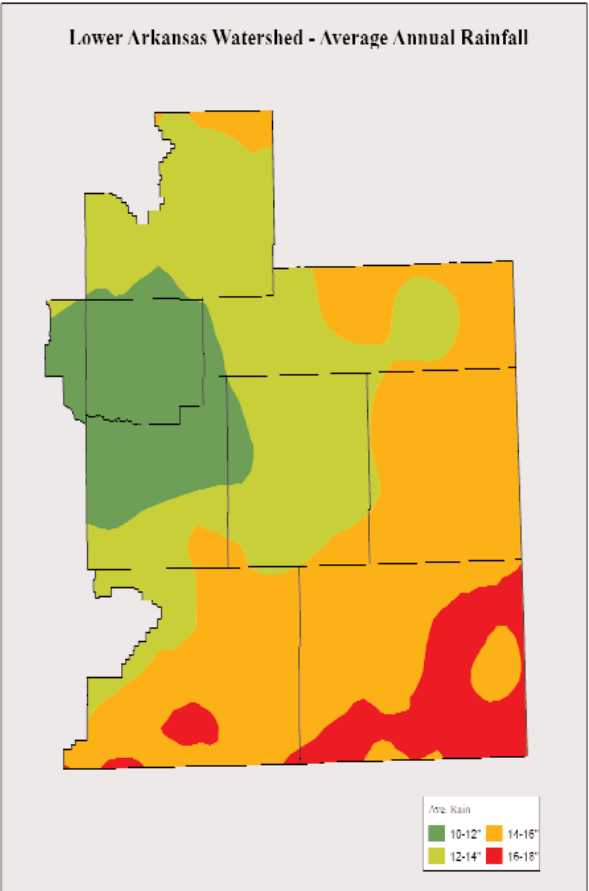


Photo by Mary Miller
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Lower Arkansas River Watershed - Cropland



Lower Arkansas Watershed - Average Annual Rainfall



Lower Arkansas River Watershed - Rangeland

